

Stewart sold to Fidelity

Fidelity National Financial Inc. has signed an agreement to acquire Stewart Information Services Corp. for \$1.2 billion. The deal is subject to certain closing conditions, including Stewart stockholder approval, federal and state regulatory approvals and the satisfaction of other customer closing conditions. The deal is



expected to close during the first or second quarter of 2019. Click <u>here</u> to read the article published by American Land Title Association.

Tips To Prevent Your Personal Data From Being Hacked While Using Public Wi-Fi

A recent segment on the Today show highlighted the dangers of signing onto public Wi-Fi, where your personal information is more vulnerable to hackers. The story concerned the hacking of guests at a hotel who were tricked into signing onto a fake network with a name that resembled the hotel's network. Luckily for these guests, the experiment was conducted by security experts at Today's behest, and the guests were subsequently advised that they had made themselves vulnerable to hackers. If it had been a real-life situation, the guests' personal information, including credit card numbers, email addresses, and passwords, would have been intercepted by the cyber thieves.

Click here to watch the segment from the Today show.

Upcoming Seminars and Save The Date

Our annual County seminar series, which began in November and December, will conclude with the following:

4/3	Addison County	Marriott, Middlebury
4/5	Rutland County	Holiday Inn, Rutland

Topics for the county seminars include: Fraud; Perpetual Leases; Common Interest Communities; Legislation; current Court Decisions & Ethics Opinions; Avoiding Title

Insurance Claims. Please visit our website for additional information or to register.

SAVE THE DATE!



Mark your calendar now! VATC will offer its very popular Last Call For CLE at Capitol Plaza in Montpelier on June 12th . Stayed tuned for registration information and a summary of the topics to be addressed.

Lau's Corner & Title Tips - Commercial Endorsements

Do you have a lender requesting ALTA Endorsements and don't know what they look like or where to find them? Well, look no further than the <u>VATC website</u>.

Click on the "Attorney Resources" banner and then "Commercial Transactions".

Most of the endorsements are preceded by an information sheet. Please remember that some commercial endorsements require additional underwriting and, because they pose additional risk, some endorsements require additional premium. If you have a lender asking for commercial endorsements, please contact <u>Andy</u> or <u>Liz</u> for approval.

Please note that you will also find several CATIC endorsement forms here, too. Check them out! As always, please call the VATC office with questions about "non-typical" endorsements.

Town Clerk News

Please note that the Newark Town Clerk's Office will be closed for renovations the week of April 16th.

We like to keep our online Town Clerk Directory up to date with the most recent information. If you are out and about in the land records and notice a change in hours, etc., please email the changes to <u>Katie</u>.Thank you!

Wire Fraud Alert

CATIC Agents continue to report attempted or successful incidents of wire transfer fraud. Most of



these recent reports indicate that the funds were to be directed to somewhere in Texas.

Although fraudulent international transfers have seen the most publicity, a criminal could just as easily attempt to have you send funds to an address within the country. Criminals have become very sophisticated and hope that you are looking only for international exchanges so they will set up a domestic transfer to trick you.

Be on the alert with all wire transfers, whether domestic or international. Be suspicious and verify and confirm wire instructions with your known source and

using a known phone number, before transferring any funds. As always, call us with any questions.